

February 9, 1976

After Mr. Webb provided us with his testimony, Douglas County Chief Deputy, Joseph Thornton, in the hearing and in his testimony, indicated that the reserve officers to which we refer are not receiving the training that Mr. Webb indicated they should be receiving. All I'm saying is it's presently on Nebraska statutes. I think it should be enforced.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. Chairman, colleagues. It's true, as Senator Chambers mentioned, another coincidence that happened in Omaha. I think again it's something like if one of us did something wrong or we introduced a bill that seemed crazy to 10,000 people, the people would get an opinion that this body was no good. I think you and I in our sober moments would certainly have a contrasting view point from that. I feel that the members that I'm working with here are as honorable and as good of men that I ever worked with. I wouldn't want some emotional event, whether it's one in a hundred, or two in a hundred, to happen and to influence peoples thinking regarding this, particularly if it resulted in legislation to our detriment.

I think we have to be careful about incidence of coincidence that do happen.

It was mentioned that we are for putting people out on the street with guns and without training. That could be no further from the truth. We believe in training and we know what they've been getting in our county. I think in the other counties of the state they have been getting training. Starting Friday they are to get the full training, every facet of training that there is, some areas that really would not be needed at all. Nevertheless, starting last Friday I have the girls taking a photostat of this program that started several days ago. It will be handed to you to show you the training they're going to get. There's only one difference, it will be done at home around our vicinity so we can still get volunteers who won't have to spend their money to go elsewhere to get it. It will be the full program. The girl is just now starting to deliver that program to you. We'll have a fulfillment of the complete training.

I rise to strike the enacting clause because I believe there's no more reason for this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I've got some different kinds of buzzards standing behind me talking. I'd like to find out from the Douglas County, or from the Omaha delegation, Senator Mahoney, could I address a question to you as to the operation of the Sheriff's Office? I'm certainly concerned. I'll point out what I'm talking about. I understand you might be the most knowledgeable as to the operation, having been in law enforcement. Would you answer a question? I'm not going to try and embarrass you at all. I want to find out something.